

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 8 are pending in this application. In the Written Opinion dated 30 November 2004 (30.11.04), the Authorized Officer asserts that at least some of the claims do not appear to be novel and/or to involve an inventive step according to the criteria mentioned in Articles 33(1) and 33(3) PCT.

In the Search Report, the Authorized Officer cites the following itemized references:

Category	Citation of document	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 2003 212056 A (NISSAN MOTOR CO LTD)	1
X	EP 0 995 667 A (MERITOR AUTOMOTIVE GMBH)	1, 6
X	US 5 016 936 A (GOODRICH DAVID)	1, 4, 6
X	DE 299 18 214 U (ALUSUISSE KAPA GMBH)	1, 3, 6
X	US 4 068 034 A (SEGAWA MASAHIRO ET AL)	1, 3-6
Y		2, 7
Y	EP 0 412 346 A (GEN ELECTRIC)	2, 7
A	EP 0 640 467 A (GEN ELECTRIC)	

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims meet the novelty and inventive step requirements as the claim elements and associated limitations are not disclosed in, or motivated in claimed combination by, the cited references.

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a vehicle panel comprising a core layer, and a layer of metalized film bonded to the core layer, wherein the layer of metalized film forms an exterior surface of the vehicle panel that is nearest a source of heat when the vehicle panel is in use.

The Written Opinion cites the U.S. Patent No. 4068034 A (hereinafter, D1) as being the closest prior art to Claim 1. In one embodiment, D1 discloses a heat-insulating material comprised of a transparent layer of polyvinylidene fluoride film 1 and a layer of metal 2. *See Fig. 1*. In another embodiment, D1 discloses a heat-insulating material comprised of a transparent layer of polyvinylidene fluoride film 3,

a layer of metal 4, a layer of adhesive or binding agent 5 and a layer of priming material 6. *See Fig 2.*

D1 teaches in both embodiments that the upper surface of the transparent layer of polyvinylidene fluoride film 3 is exposed to the source of radiant heat. *See col. 3, lines 21-24; col. 4, lines 33-36; col. 5, lines 14-19.* There is no mention in D1 of at least the feature of a vehicle panel comprising a core layer, and a layer of metalized film bonded to the core layer, wherein the layer of metalized film forms an exterior surface of the vehicle panel that is nearest a source of heat when the vehicle panel is in use, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least this reason, Claim 1 defines subject matter that is both novel and involves an inventive step.

The Written Opinion cites EP 0 412 346 A (hereinafter, D2) as being the closest prior art to amended Claim 8 (amended originally-filed Claim 7). The Authorized Officer asserts that the sheet 512' is a layer of metalized film. Contrary to the Authorized Officer, the component 512' is comprised of a sheet 512 made of resin material that has been deformed by the upper core 500. Thus, there is no mention in D2 of a metalized film, as recited in amended Claim 8. Thus, there is no mention in D2 of at least the feature of a vehicle panel comprising a core layer, and a layer of metalized film bonded to the core layer, wherein the layer of metalized film forms an exterior surface of the vehicle panel that is nearest a source of heat when the vehicle panel is in use, as recited in amended Claim 8.

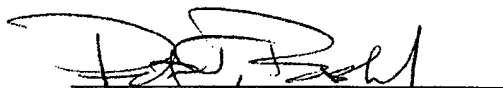
For at least this reason, Claim 8 defines subject matter that is both novel and involves an inventive step.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims meet the novelty and inventive step requirements. Applicant's claimed elements and associated limitations are not disclosed in, or motivated in claimed combination by, the cited references.

CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, Claims 1 through 8 should be deemed to be novel and involve an inventive step. Reconsideration and reexamination in view of the above comments are respectfully requested.


Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. J. Rashid", is written over a horizontal line.

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Lee P. Rhodes